



Chesterfield County  
Department of Building Inspection  
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[www.chesterfield.gov/bi](http://www.chesterfield.gov/bi)

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## CODES - RESIDENTIAL

All counties and cities in the Commonwealth of Virginia use the 2003 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (VUSBC), which went into effect on November 16, 2005.

The VUSBC references the 2003 International Residential Code (IRC) as the official residential building code for Virginia. In turn, the 2003 IRC references the 2002 National Electrical Code (NEC) for all electrical issues.

Several important points should be noted:

1. These codes are the minimum allowable standards, and the homeowner or contractor may build to higher performance standards.
2. While all municipalities abide by the same codes, the requirements in one jurisdiction may be different from those requirements in another municipality (example: the wind conditions at the beach are different than here in the Richmond area, and should therefore mandate different wall bracing).

A copy of the residential portion of the VUSBC is called the *2003 Virginia Construction Code* and it can be downloaded from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development web page at [http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/StateBuildingCodesandRegulations/PDFs/Virginia\\_Construction\\_Code\\_USBCPart\\_I.pdf](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/StateBuildingCodesandRegulations/PDFs/Virginia_Construction_Code_USBCPart_I.pdf)

The 2003 International Residential Code can be purchased from the International Code Council by phone at (888) 786-4452. Notice: There are other more current years available of the IRC, so be sure to specify the 2003 edition.

